

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Coleman
Campbell of Blount County, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James Coleman Campbell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell was an exemplary member of his community who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, James Campbell, raised in Prospect, Pennsylvania, chose to make Blount County, Tennessee, his home, dedicating so much of his energies to the health and well-being of his fellow citizens as a coach and educator in the Maryville City School District; and

WHEREAS, a 1953 graduate of Maryville College, Mr. Campbell had signed a contract to play professional baseball for the Cincinnati Reds when he was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War. He served in Germany, where he played football and managed a boxing team as part of his duties; and

WHEREAS, returning to the United States after his tour was completed, James Campbell assumed employment as a teacher and coach in Clinton, Tennessee, and he married a longtime friend and fellow Maryville College graduate, Janice Eakin, on Christmas Day in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell began his career with the Maryville City School District in 1956 as a coach at Maryville Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, turning his attention to the work of the church, Mr. Campbell became Director of Christian Education at New Providence Presbyterian Church in 1962, and four years later, enrolled in Princeton University Seminary in order to further his own theological training; and

WHEREAS, in order that his ailing daughter, Mary Esther, might receive the best care in her battle with cancer, Jim Campbell left the seminary, and moved his family to Ridgewood, New Jersey, to be closer to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, and became Director of Christian Education at West Side Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell's daughter passed away at the tender age of eight in 1967, and the family stayed in Ridgewood for four more years, until, during a trip to his parents' cabin in Townsend, Tennessee, he received an offer, which he accepted, to coach basketball and baseball at Maryville High School; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement in 1996, after fifteen years as Athletic Director at Maryville High School, the District recognized Mr. Campbell's illustrious service by naming the school's gymnasium in his honor; and

WHEREAS, he remained active in local athletics as an umpire for Parks and Recreation, a coordinator for the Smokey Mountain Classic, an announcer for local basketball and football games, and by helping to organize the Blount County Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell also loved to fish and golf, playing his last round not long before his passing; and

WHEREAS, Jim Campbell was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell was preceded in death by his parents as well as his daughter, Mary Esther; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of over fifty-two years, Janice Eakin Campbell, and his sons and their wives, David C. Campbell and Mary Lynn Tobin and James E. Campbell and Priscilla Book Campbell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell will also be sorely missed by his brothers, Reverend G. David Campbell and Marion Morrison Campbell; and his grandchildren, Elise, Amelia, and Claire Campbell, and Christopher Tobin-Campbell; and

WHEREAS, James C. Campbell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional athlete, educator, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Coleman Campbell, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Campbell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.